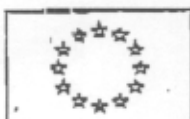


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## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

HEALTH &amp; CONSUMER PROTECTION

Directorate E - Public, animal and plant health

Unit E4 - Coordination of the horizontal health questions

 Brussels, 22.03.2000 D.3856  
 E4-PD (2000) 40581

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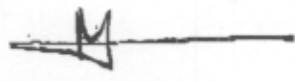
**Number of pages:** 21

**Subject:** Information note on African Swine Fever in Portugal

## Message:

Further to my fax messages of 18 and 25 November, 23 December 1999 and 26 January 2000 concerning the outbreak of African swine fever in Portugal, I enclose an information note on the state of affairs as regards both African and Classical swine fever in the EC following the 8-9 March meeting of the Standing Veterinary Committee.

Yours sincerely,

  
 Matthew HUDSON  
 Head of Unit

Enclosures: Note, annexes 1-4.

c.c.: MM Checchi Lung, Van Goethem, Laddomada, Castellina  
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## Information note on the situation concerning Classical and African Swine Fever in the EC

### 1. Classical swine fever situation in the EU, August 1999-February 2000

#### Introduction

In the period of August 1999-February 2000 the positive trend as regards the classical swine fever (CSF) situation in the EU described in previous notes has been confirmed (Annex 1).

However, CSF still persists in wild boar in some areas of the Community. The situation has been reviewed during the meeting of the Standing Veterinary Committee on 8-9 March 2000.

#### Italy

In the period of reference three outbreaks of CSF have occurred in three small pig holdings on the island of Sardinia. Two outbreaks occurred in the Province of Sassari in the commune of Pattada, which is located in an area where CSF has been detected also in wild boar. The third outbreak occurred in the Province of Cagliari, in the commune of Nilius, which borders the Province of Nuoro, where the disease has been reported in wild boar for more than 15 years. Trade of pig and pig products from the whole of Sardinia is under restriction due to the presence of African swine fever. A plan is in force to eradicate both Classical and African swine fever.

CSF is still present in wild boar in the Province of Varese (Lombardy). However, in 1999 the disease showed a clear declining trend. A plan for the eradication of CSF is in force in this area.

#### Germany

In the period of reference three outbreaks of classical swine fever have occurred in Germany, in areas already under restriction due to the presence of CSF in feral pigs (see Annex 2). The epidemiological investigations and the molecular epidemiology studies carried out on virus isolates confirm that the wild boar is the most likely origin of these outbreaks.

Annex 3 shows the areas of Germany, which are currently under restriction due to CSF in wild boar and for which eradication plans are being implemented.

## France

A plan for the eradication of classical swine fever from wild boar is still in force in the Departments of Bas-Rhin and Moselle in France, at the German border (Southern Rheinland-Pfalz), where the last CSF infected wild boar has been detected in December 1997.

The results of the most recent serological survey have confirmed the declining trend of CSF in this area in the last years, suggesting that the disease is probably dying out.

## Belgium and Luxembourg

Due to the occurrence of CSF in wild boar in a bordering area of Germany (Western Rheinland-Pfalz), monitoring programmes have been implemented in South-eastern Belgium and in Northern Luxembourg. The controls carried out so far have not confirmed the presence of CSF in wild boar. However, additional surveillance is being carried out in pig holdings.

## 2. African Swine Fever in Portugal

Following the outbreaks of African swine fever in the Alentejo region in Southern Portugal in November 1999, the Portuguese veterinary authorities have carried out intense disease eradication activities.

The ASF situation has been reviewed by the Standing Veterinary Committee on 8 March 2000. The laboratory tests carried out on about 70,000 blood samples collected in more than 1,000 pig herds located in southern Portugal showed no evidence of ASF.

Due to the favorable evolution of the situation, the safeguard clauses adopted in relation to this outbreak (Commission Decision 1999/789/EEC and 2000/64/EEC) have been further amended. Annex 4 reports the draft Decision that will be formally adopted by the Commission in the coming days.

The first results of the characterization of the African swine fever isolate responsible of the outbreak show that it can be classified in to the so-called "Lisbon 60 family".

These results suggest that the outbreak might have been caused by persistence of virus, probably in ticks. However, further investigations are being carried out in the framework of the surveillance plan approved by the Standing Veterinary Committee in December 1999 (Commission Decision 2000/62/EEC).

Annex 4

Draft

## COMMISSION DECISION

amending for the second time Decision 1999/789/EC concerning certain protection measures relating to African swine fever in Portugal

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market<sup>1</sup>, as last amended by Council Directive 92/118/EEC<sup>2</sup>, and in particular, Article 10 (4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 18 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market<sup>3</sup>, as last amended by Council Directive 92/118/EEC, and in particular, Article 9 (4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 80/215/EEC<sup>4</sup> of 22 January 1980, on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products as last amended by Council Directive 91/687/EEC<sup>5</sup>, and in particular Article 7bis (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) an outbreak of African swine fever occurred in Portugal, region of Alentejo, municipality of Almodovar on 15 November 1999;
- (2) by Decision 1999/789/EC<sup>6</sup> the Commission adopted certain disease control measures to prevent spreading of the disease;
- (3) by Decision 2000/64/EC<sup>7</sup> the Commission amended Decision 1999/789/EC, to take into account the evolution of the situation;

1 OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29.  
 2 OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 49.  
 3 OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 13.  
 4 OJ L 47, 21.2.1980, p. 4.  
 5 OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p. 161.  
 6 OJ L 310, 4.12.99, p. 71.  
 7 OJ L 22, 27.1.2000, p. 67.

- (4) by Decision 2000/62/EC<sup>8</sup> the Commission approved a plan for the surveillance of African swine fever submitted by Portugal, including further disease control measures;
- (5) in the light of the favourable evolution of the situation Commission Decision 1999/789/EC must be amended for the second time;
- (6) the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

Article 2 of Decision 1999/789/EC is replaced by the following article:

*"Article 2*

1. Live pigs originating from a holding situated in the areas described in the Annex can not be sent to other areas of Portugal unless the animals:
- come from a holding where no live pigs have been introduced during the 30 day period immediately prior to the dispatch of the pigs in question from holdings located in the areas described in the Annex,
  - have been included in a pre-movement serological testing programme carried out within ten days prior to transport where no antibodies to the African swine fever virus have been detected; the pre-movement testing programme for the consignment in question must be designed to give approximately 95% confidence of detecting seropositive animals at a 5% prevalence level,
  - have undergone a clinical examination on the holding of origin within 24 hours prior to transport. All pigs on the holding of origin shall be examined and related facilities must be inspected. The animals shall be identified by ear tags at the holding of origin so that they can be traced back to the holding of origin,
  - have been transported directly from the holding of origin to the holding or slaughterhouse of destination. The means of transport shall be cleaned and disinfected with an officially approved disinfectant before loading and immediately after unloading.

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 22, 27.1.2000, p. 65

2. By derogation from paragraph 1, second indent, the official veterinarian may decide that in case of slaughter pigs the pre-movement serological tests referred to in paragraph 1 are carried out at slaughter, if previous serological controls carried out in the holding of origin, in relation to the implementation of this Decision or of the surveillance plan approved by Decision 2000/62/EEC, have given negative result.
3. Live pigs sent to other areas of Portugal in accordance with paragraph 1 must be accompanied during transport to the holding or slaughterhouse of destination by a health document issued by an official veterinarian."

*Article 2*

In Article 6 of Decision 1999/789/EC as amended by Decision 2000/64/EC the date "31 March 2000" is replaced by the date "31 May 2000".

*Article 3*

The Member States shall amend the measures which they apply to trade so as to bring them into compliance with this Decision. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission  
David BYRNE  
Member of the Commission